

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH - 2012

STAFF

Director of Public Health – James M. White, Jr., B.A, C. P. H., RS/REHS
Senior Environmental Health Specialist – Michael K. Boudreau, M.P.A., R.S.
Environmental Health Agent – Jane M. Anderson, M.P.H., REHS/RS
Public Health Nurse – Leila J. Mercer, R.N., M.S.N
Executive Assistant – Pamela K. Morgan, B.A.
Department Assistant – Jean M. Cotter
Animal Inspector – Keith A. Tosi

The following communicable and reportable diseases were reported to the Board of Health during 2012:

Amebiasis	0	Lyme Disease	72
Babesiosis	2	Meningitis (Bacterial)	0
Campylobactor	7	Meningitis (Viral)	3
E.coli 0157:H7	0	Mumps	0
Ehrlichiosis	6	Norovirus	13
Encephalitis	0	Pertussis	4
Giardia	2	Salmonella	8
Group A Strep Invasive	0	Shigellosis	0
Group B Strep Invasive	4	Typhoid Fever	1
S. pneumoniae	2	Varicella (Chicken Pox)	4
Hepatitis A	0	Vibrio Sp.	1
Hepatitis B	5	Influenza (Lab Confirmed)	
Hepatitis C	17	Type A	8
Listeriosis	1	Type B	0

TOTAL: 160

Home visits made for contagion and other related matters totaled 160. Mantoux skin tests for tuberculosis totaled 22. There were 2 positive reactions identified and 2 referrals to private physicians.

At our weekly Blood Pressure Clinics, 208 residents participated, with 6 referrals to private physicians. Additional office visits included Lead Screening, walk in patients, communicable disease screening and community health assessments totaling 339 visits resulting in an additional 53 referrals to private physicians or state agencies.

Flu Clinics were held in the fall and continue into the winter months until the flu vaccine was exhausted. The clinics were administered according to state and federal government guidelines. A total of 1611 seasonal flu and an additional 102 various other vaccines, such as Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR), Varicella (Chicken Pox), etc., were administered through the Immunization Program provided by the Board of Health.

The public health nurse was instrumental in assisting with the school based student and family flu clinics held during the November 20th release day. That day alone 461 doses of vaccine was administered to students, parents and siblings.

Fees collected by the Board of Health Department in calendar year 2012 for various licenses, permits, fees and inspections totaled \$206,293.02; representing the highest total ever collect in a single year by this department. An additional \$20,595.82 was collected in Medicare reimbursement for the flu clinics and deposited into our immunization revolving account. The monies deposited into our revolving account enabled us to purchase an additional 880 doses of vaccine to keep up with the demand and offset the continued cutbacks in state supplied vaccines. Also, another \$400 was collected by the Town Clerk for non-criminal fines issued by the Board of Health for code violations.

This past year 1195 inspections were conducted for 448 food establishments of all types, including restaurants, markets, bakeries, caterers, clubs, schools, canteen trucks, fairs, hospital, nursing homes and residential kitchens. An additional 3317 inspections, complaint investigations, progress inspections, plan reviews and field consultations were carried out by the Board of Health staff relative to environmental sanitation, housing, sewerage, drainage, swimming pools, day camps, livestock, hazardous materials and other public health matters. A total of 427 septic system pump outs and Title 5 inspections were received and reviewed; also 1561 various permits and licenses were issued by the Board of Health in 2012.

The increases over previous years described in the paragraphs above relative to fee collection and inspections represents the demand in Board of Health services and the addition of a food consultant in July to aid the department in food establishment inspections. The food consultant position has eased some of the mandated inspectional burden and allowed the Health Department staff to concentrate efforts in other areas of public health needs and concerns.

The Board of Health, with the support of the Department of Public Works, began our used sharps/syringe disposal program this past July by providing a collection kiosk at the DPW office lobby during their hours of operations. Free disposal containers for Natick residents are available at either the DPW or the Board of Health office. Another Health Department initiative supported by the DPW was our 26th annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Nearly 200 residents attended, properly disposing a variety of potentially hazardous unwanted household waste material.

With all the current construction activity in Natick, we are bracing for an even busier 2013. This department will continue to strive to provide and improve public health services to the Town and our residents by utilizing any available means possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Delli Colli, D.M.D., Chairman

Donald J. Breda, P.E., Vice Chairman

Ian L. Wong, Clerk

Alan G. Cole, M.D., Physician to the Board

James M. White, Jr. RS/REHS, Director of Public Health